

■ *Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department*

To: Cynthia J. Benton, Chair, Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department
From: Department Personnel Committee
Date: March 3, 2007
RE: Reappointment of Dr. Kimberly Rombach

The Department Personnel Committee voted 4-0 to recommend that Dr. Kimberly Rombach receive a two-year reappointment. The following reasons are offered in support of this recommendation.

Teaching

Dr. Rombach provides evidence that she is an exemplary teacher. In her time at SUNY Cortland, she has taught five different courses in three different programs. Whatever course she is teaching, Dr. Rombach's preparation and innovation appear to be outstanding. She has a website for all her course materials with detailed information about assignments and expectations. She has created and revised assignments, such as her incorporation of virtual field trips in her Social Studies methods class, based on student feedback and her own reflection on her practice. She has collaborated with other faculty members to improve students' preparation as teachers, such as in her work on the thematic methods block e4st (Educating for Social Transformation) and t3c (Threading Technology throughout the Curriculum). And she has worked with area schools to provide "real" teaching experiences for her students, such as in her work with Barry School's second- and third-grade teachers.

Students rate Dr. Rombach's effectiveness very highly. On all CTE items for all her courses, ratings range from 4.5-5.0 with overall means at 4.8. Comments from students are almost exclusively positive and glowing. "Kim is well organized and provides many examples of what she expects of us." "I feel all the projects were important and helped enhance my learning." "There was a lot of work to do, but it was worth it." "I hope I can be just as effective and have an impact on my students as well as you have." Clearly, the evidence indicates that Kim Rombach is an outstanding teacher.

Scholarship

Dr. Rombach provides evidence that she is pursuing research in three different areas: Preservice Teachers' Social Justice Education, Teaching Methods that Promote Diversity Understanding, and Equity and Achievement in Elementary Classrooms. To support this research agenda, she has applied for and received a number of internal grants, including a

Faculty Research Program grant, a Summer Research Fellowship, and an Individual Development Award. In total, Dr. Rombach has applied for seven internal grants, with six awarded and one pending.

Since Dr. Rombach's last review in the fall of 2005, she has made six professional presentations at national and international conferences including the American Education Research Association (AERA), the Hawaii International Conference on Education, and the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE). Dr. Rombach has two more presentations accepted for March and April of this year.


Dr. Rombach is making commendable progress in publishing. She has one paper forthcoming in the proceedings of the 2007 Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education (SITE) Conference and two articles under review in the *International Journal of Inclusive Education* and *Teacher Education and Practice*, respectively. The committee recommends that Dr. Rombach submit more of her papers from conferences for review at journals so that she can gain wider recognition for her work and add to her list of publications.


Service


Dr. Rombach is involved in a variety of service. She has been a reviewer of books for the publisher Allyn and Bacon as well as a reviewer of conference proposals for AERA. At the college level, she is a member of the College Scholarship Committee and the Faculty Development Committee. She recently became a member of the Long-Range Planning Committee.

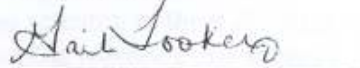
At the school and department level, Dr. Rombach has shown strong leadership in her service commitments. She was a Faculty Senator for two years. For the past year, she has coordinated the Master of Science in Teaching Program. She has chaired the Department's Research and Technology Committee and is currently chairing the Social Studies Education Faculty Search Committee. She has also recently taken over as advisor for the Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society. Through these and many other service duties, Dr. Rombach has made a significant contribution to the life of the College.

Given that Dr. Rombach has demonstrated excellent progress in teaching, scholarship and service, the Personnel Committee unanimously recommends that she be granted a two-year reappointment.


Andrea Lachance, Chair


Tom Lickona


Beth Klein


Gail Tooker